

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

VOL. I.]

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[No. 29.]

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER,

By T. O'CONNOR,

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Official.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 4.

About 12 o'clock this day, JAMES MADISON, the President elect, of the United States having attended at the Capitol for the purpose of taking the Oath of Office, delivered to the vast concourse of people assembled on the occasion, the following

SPEECH.

About to add the solemnity of an oath to the obligations imposed by a second call to the station, in which my country heretofore placed me, I find, in the presence of this respectable assembly, an opportunity of publicly repeating my profound sense of so distinguished a confidence, and of the responsibility united with it. The impressions on me are strengthened by such an evidence, that my faithful endeavors to discharge my arduous duties have been favorably estimated; and by a consideration of the momentous period at which the trust has been renewed. From the weight and magnitude now belonging to it, I should be compelled to shrink, if I had less reliance on the support of an enlightened and generous people, and felt less deeply a conviction, that the war with a powerful nation, which forms so prominent a feature in our situation, is stamped with that justice, which invites the smiles of heaven on the means of conducting it to a successful termination.

May we not cherish this sentiment, without presumption, when we reflect on

the characteristics by which this war is distinguished?

It was not declared, on the part of the United States, until it had been long made on them, in reality, though not in name; until arguments, and expostulations had been exhausted; until a positive declaration had been received, that the wrongs provoking it would not be discontinued; nor until this appeal could no longer be delayed, without breaking down the spirit of the nation, destroying all confidence in itself and its political institutions; and either perpetuating a state of disgraceful suffering, or regaining, by more costly sacrifices and more severe struggles, our lost rank and respect among independent powers.

On the issue of the war are staked our national sovereignty on the high seas, and the security of an important class of citizens, whose occupations give the proper value to those of every other class.—Not to contend for such a stake, is to surrender our equality with other powers, on the element common to all; and to violate the sacred title, which every member of the society has to its protection.

I need not call into view the unlawfulness of the practice, by which our mariners are forced, at the will of every cruising officer, from their own vessels into foreign ones, nor paint the outrages inseparable from it. The proofs are in the records of each successive administration of our government; and the cruel sufferings of that portion of the American people have found their way to every American bosom not dead to the sympathies of human nature.

As the war was just in its origin, and necessary and noble in its object, we can reflect with a proud satisfaction, that, in carrying it on, no principle of justice or honor, no usage of civilized nations, no precept of courtesy or humanity have been infringed. The war has been wa-

ged on our part, with scrupulous regard to all these relations, and in a spirit of liberality which was never surpassed.

How little has been the effect of this example on the conduct of the enemy.

They have retained as prisoners of war citizens of the United States not liable to be so considered under the usages of war.

They have refused to consider as prisoners of war, and threaten to punish as traitors and deserters, persons emigrating without restraint to the U. S. incorporated by naturalization into our political family, and fighting under the authority of their adopted country, in open and honorable war, for the maintenance of its rights and safety. Such is the avowed purpose of a government, which is in the practice of naturalizing, by thousands, citizens of other countries, & not only of permitting, but compelling them to fight its battles against their native country.

They have not, it is true, taken into their own hands the hatchet and the knife, devoted to indiscriminate massacre; but they have let loose the savages armed with these cruel instruments; have allured them into their service, and carried them to battle by their sides, eager to glut their savage thirst with the blood of the vanquished, and to finish the work of torture and death on maimed and defenceless captives. And what was never before seen, British commanders have extorted victory over the unconquerable valor of our troops, by presenting to the sympathy of their chief awaiting massacre from their savage associates.

And now we find them in further contempt of the mode of honorable warfare supplying the place of a conquering force, by attempts to disorganize our political society, to dismember our confederated republic. Happily, like others, these will recoil on the authors; but

they want the degenerate councils from which they emanate; and, if they did not belong to a series of unexampled inconsistencies, might excite the greater wonder, as proceeding from a government which founded the very war in which it has been so long engaged against the disorganizing and insurrectional policy of its adversary.

To render the justice of the war on our part the more conspicuous, the reluctance to commence it was followed by the earliest and strongest manifestations of a disposition to arrest its progress.—The sword was scarcely out of its scabbard, before the enemy was apprised of the reasonable terms on which it would be re-sheathed. Still more precise advances were repeated, and have been received in a spirit forbidding every reliance, not placed on the military resources of the nation.

These resources are amply sufficient to bring the war to an honorable issue. Our nation is, in number, more than half that of the British isles. It is composed of a brave, a free, a virtuous and intelligent people. Our country abounds in the necessaries, the arts and the comforts of life. A general prosperity is visible in the public countenance. The means employed by the British cabinet to undermine it, have recoiled on themselves; have given to our national faculties a more rapid development; and, draining or diverting the precious metals from British circulation and British vaults, have poured them into those of the U. States. It is a propitious consideration, that an unavoidable war should have found this seasonable facility for the contributions necessary to support it. When the public voice called for war, all knew and still know, that without them it could not be carried on, through the period which it might last; and the patriotism, the good sense and the manly spirit of our fellow-citizens, are pledges for the cheerfulness with which they will bear each his share of the common burden.

To render the war short and its success sure, animated and systematic exertions alone are necessary; and the success of our arms may long preserve our country from the necessity of another resort to them. Already have the gallant exploits of our naval heroes proved to the world our inherent capacity to maintain our rights, on one element. If the reputation of our arms has been thrown under clouds on the other, presaging flashes of heroic enterprise assure us that nothing is wanting to correspondent triumphs there also, but the discipline and habits which are in daily progress.

On the 24th ult. the President communicated to Congress the following

MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. S.

I lay before Congress copies of a proclamation of the British Lieut. Governor of the Island of Bermuda, which has appeared under circumstances leaving no doubt of its authenticity. It recites a British order in Council, of the 26th October last, providing for the supply of the British W. Indies and other colonial possessions, by a trade under special licences; and is accompanied by a circular instruction to the colonial governors, which confines licensed importations from ports of the U. S. to the ports of the eastern states exclusively.

The government of Great Britain has already introduced into her commerce, during war, a system which, at once violating the rights of other nations, and resting on a mass of forgery and perjury, unknown to other times, was making an unfortunate progress in undermining those principles of morality and religion, which are the best foundation of national happiness. The policy, now proclaimed to the world, introduces into her modes of warfare a system equally distinguished by the deformity of its features and the depravity of its character; having for its object to dissolve the ties of allegiance, and the sentiments of loyalty in the adversary nation, and to seduce and separate its component parts the one from the other. The general tendency of these demoralizing contrivances will be reprobated by the civilized and christian world, and the insulting attempt on the virtue, the honor, the patriotism, and the fidelity of our brethren of the eastern states, will not fail to call forth their indignation and resentment; and to attach more and more all the states to the happy union and constitution against which such insidious and malignant artifices are directed.

The better to guard, nevertheless, against the effect of individual cupidity and treachery, and turn the corrupt projects of the enemy against himself, I recommend to the consideration of Congress the expediency of an effectual prohibition of any trade whatever by citizens or inhabitants of the U. S. under special licences, whether relating to persons or ports; and, in aid thereof, a prohibition of all exportations from the United States in foreign bottoms; few of which are actually employed, whilst multiplying counterfeits of their flags and papers are covering and encouraging the navigation of the enemy.

JAMES MADISON.

February 24, 1813.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Winchester, now a prisoner of war, to the Secretary of War.

MALDEN, JAN. 23, 1813.

SIR—A detachment from the left wing of the North-Western Army, under my command at French Town, on the River Raisin, was attacked on the 22d inst. by a force greatly superior in number; aided by several pieces of artillery. The action commenced at the dawn of day; the piquet guards were driven in; and a heavy fire opened on the whole line, by which a part thereof was thrown into great disorder; and being ordered to form on more advantageous ground, I found the enemy doubling our left flank with force and rapidity.

A destructive fire was sustained for some time; at length borne down by numbers, the few of us that remained with the party that retired from the lines submitted. The remainder of our force, in number about four hundred, continued to defend themselves with great gallantry, in an unequal contest against small arms and artillery, until I was brought in as a prisoner to that part of the field occupied by the enemy.

At this latter place, I understood that our troops were defending themselves in a state of desperation, and was informed by the commanding officer of the enemy, that he would afford them an opportunity of surrendering themselves prisoners of war; to which I acceded. I was the more ready to make the surrender from being assured, that unless done quickly, the buildings adjacent would be immediately set on fire, and that no responsibility would be taken for the conduct of the savages, who were then assembled in great numbers.

In this critical situation, being desirous to preserve the lives of a number of our brave fellows, who still held out, I sent a flag to them, and agreed with the commanding officer of the enemy, that they should be surrendered prisoners of war, on condition of being protected from the savages, allowed to retain their private property, and having their side arms returned to them. It is impossible for me to ascertain with certainty the loss we have sustained in this action, from the impracticability of knowing the number who have made their escape.

Thirty-five officers and about four hundred and eighty-seven non-commissioned officers and privates are prisoners of war. A list of the names of the officers is herewith enclosed to you. Our loss in killed is considerable.

However unfortunate may seem the affair of yesterday, I am flattered by a belief, that no material error is charge-

ble upon myself, and that still less censure is deserved by the troops I had the honor of commanding.

With the exception of that portion of our force which was thrown into disorder, no troops have ever behaved with more determined intrepidity.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant,

JAMES WINCHESTER.

Brig. Gen. U. S. Army.

Hon. Secretary at War.

A list of officers taken at French-town, January 22d, 1813.

James Winchester, Brig. General
William Lewis, Lieut. Colonel
James Overton, Jun. Aid-De-Camp
George Madison, Major
James Garrard, jun. B. Inspector
John M'Calla, adjutant
Polland Ceen, Quarter-master
John Todd.

CAPTAINS.

Richard Hightower, John Hamilton,
Blaud W. Ballard, Saml. L. Williams,
Coleman Collins, Uriah Sabrie,
Henry Sames, Richard Bledsoe,
Joseph Kelly.

LIEUTENANTS.

Caleb Holder, Ashton Ganard,
Byran Rule, Wm Mrore,
Wm. M. M'Guire, John Higgins,

ENSIGNS.

Lynden Comstock, James Mundy,
Wm. O'Butler, James Herron,
Thomas Chin, Wm. Nash,
Jos. Harrow, Jos. Mooring,
John W. Nash, Wm. Fleet,
John Botts, G. Cardwell.

Total 35, prisoners at Malden.

The Indians have still a few prisoners in their possession, which I have reason to hope will be given up to Col. Proctor at Sandwich.

JAMES WINCHESTER,

Brig. Gen. U. States Army.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

Defence of New-York.

No. XX.

Of the superiority of Redoubts over Entrenchments.

I shall endeavour to condense the Marshal's 9th Chap. wherein he justifies by a relation of facts, the high opinion he entertains of redoubts. When the Russians determined to attack the Swedes and raise the siege of Paltawa, the Czar Peter the great addressed the council of war as follows—"Since we have come to a resolution to fight the king of Sweden, nothing remains but to agree about the method and to make choice of that which promises the most success. The Swedes are well exercised, well disciplined, adroit under arms, and impetuous in their charge: our

troops are not inferior to them in point of resolution, but they certainly are, in many other respects; it therefore becomes necessary to devise some scheme that may render this superiority useless to them. They have frequently forced our retrenchments; and have always defeated us in the open field by dint of art, and by the facility with which they perform their manœuvres. In order then to counterbalance these advantages, I propose to draw near to them—throw up several redoubts in front of our infantry—to fraise and palisade them; to defend them with infantry & wait with the rest of our army behind them; he must infallibly be broken in attacking them, must lose great numbers, and will be weakened and in great disorder when he attempts to pass the redoubts to charge us."

"Thus spoke the sovereign of the Russias", and his proposition was adopted by the council.

In the course of the night seven strong redoubts were thrown up with two battalions in each—the infantry in the rear covered by the cavalry on the flanks.

"The king of Sweden and his generals were ignorant of this disposition till the moment they saw it.—But the machine as it were being once put in motion, it was now impossible to stop it. The Swedes carried three of these redoubts with difficulty; but they were repulsed at the others with great slaughter: all their infantry was broken"—

In short the Swedes were defeated with great loss, the king Charles the 12th being severely wounded. "The Muscovites, not having been accustomed to conquer, were afraid to pursue them; so the Swedes retreated without molestation to the Baristhenes, where they were afterwards taken prisoners. Tho' the Czar Peter gained this battle, yet he committed such glaring errors that the marshal is justified in saying—that it was the disposition alone which conquered the Swedes in this action without the Muscovite troops having contributed to the victory."

These examples, I hope, will not be deemed misplaced, the doctrines they enforce are those of celebrated military writers, bearing such marks of intrinsic merit, that, whether coming from the meanest source or from the illustrious authors in whose works, they are to be found alike entitled them to respect—the principles upon which they are founded cannot be shaken.

Notwithstanding all our efforts to reduce man to the condition of a mere machine, yet the feelings of the human mind will operate mangre every effort we make to blunt or subdue them. Pos-

ted in their lines in the rear of a breast work he has full time & leasure to contemplate the advance of his enemy—unemployed, he naturally reflects on his danger—Apprehensive that the moment of his enemy's entrance into the intrenchment will be that of his destruction, he calculated his safety only by flight; his retreat he considers as cut off, there being no bridge on which he could pass over the east river, or by which he could receive supplies.—unemployed, as I said before, he makes these natural reflections. The advancing foe, on the contrary exerts his whole energies to arrive speedily at the works, which he looks upon as the final end of his labours, the goal at which he reckons on victory. Having reached them, he rushes onward, enters and succeeds. Such is human nature! even in a British soldier, selected from a class of society who seldom think and seldomer think aright—who knows no opinions but those of his officers conveyed to him in commands, and to which implicit obedience is only a duty. Yet, notwithstanding the force of discipline which reduces a mercenary to look upon the sacrifice of his life as a moral duty, such is the human heart that soldiers of almost an automaton description would abandon their intrenchments if briskly attacked, though commanded by officers of military education accustomed to meet death in the most horrid shapes, and glowing with ardour to acquire rank and fame at the cannon's mouth! these are not unfounded opinions or assertions made inconsiderately—I have offered examples to prove what I affirm—I could exhibit many more if I thought it would not be trifling with my readers to offer further authorities in testimony of a self evident proposition.

AMICUS.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE U. STATES.

The time when party distinction was comparatively innocent has passed away; and the day that requires union has dawned. We must now become one people, or we must cease to be a people, exercising the right of self government. The robber is at the door, and we must no longer cavil as to the policy of permitting him to enter and possess himself of our estate. With one cry, we must say, no! with one impulse, in one body, we must resist the invader. If we have enemies amongst us, we must watch them, we must mark them; if, in our camp, there is an adherent of the enemy, let him be driven forth and sent to associate with his friends, he must be no

friend of ours, if his actions are doubtful, or his policy neutral "he that is not for us is against us." When peace will again smile on our land, when the enemy, defeated and disgraced, will again return to his home, and again purchase peace by concession, then we may debate how the government ought to be administered, whether by Federal Republicans or by Democratic Republicans;—but the contest of the present period must, like that of the revolutionary era, owe its success to an united people; the distinctions of Federalist and Republican, as well as those of war-party and peace-party, must disappear, as must every other, calculated to mask the hypocrite or conceal the enemy. That alone, which will distinguish between friends and foes, must remain. Rallied round our country's standard, let us bury all political jealousies. At our country's altar, let us, with one voice, swear to live free or die. On each side of that altar there should be placed a standard; on that to the right, the word **WHIG** must be inscribed; on that to the left, the word **TORY**. There must be no neutral ground on which the vacillating or the masked enemy can rest. They must be with us or they must be against us. They must be whigs or they must be tories. This was the doctrine of 1776. It must be that of 1813. We are not degenerated; we are now, as our fathers were then, **AMERICANS**. 'Divide and conquer' is the watch-word of the enemy. Let our's be, "a strong pull, a long pull, & pull all together." Thus will the hiding places of the internal enemy be laid open, the mask of the hypocrite be removed, and the neutrality of the lukewarm cooled into its real character, or forced to seek warmth at the fire of national resentment; and thus will the national government be enabled to calculate, with precision, the real force of the country, as well as to judge that of the enemy.

One of yourselves.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

When a medical character lately filled the office of Secretary at War, for the errors occasioned by his deficiency in military knowledge, we should most justly condemn the policy of the appointment; but for insufficiency in the application of the profession to which he was educated towards preserving the health of the soldier, he is personally responsible, without the shadow of an apology. Hence the dreadful mortality at *Baton rouge* is chargeable to his conscience, if, as we are informed, he pe-

remotely prescribed that unhealthy encampment. The commander of our army of the North, destined for a summer campaign in an enemy's country, is also a Doctor, as well as a general; and we have, therefore, a right to expect that he will preserve from the waste of disease those valuable men, so difficult to be recruited, who are, to a certain extent, to be expended against the enemy. The union of the medical with the military character may be attended with important advantages, *if it centers in an able man*; for the choice of a healthy encampment will preserve more lives than would purchase a victory; and fixing upon a sickly one, a swampy plain and a clay soil, like that of Greenbush, will send more to the grave than would be slain in a battle.

In all cases where camps are to be formed, especially when they are to be kept for a long time, like that of Greenbush, the nature of the ground ought to be a primary consideration with the person most concerned in the command; as upon the choice he makes or sanctions, depend the immediate comfort, and, in a great measure, the ultimate preservation of both officers and men.

But why should any camp be stationary, like that of Greenbush, in the interior of a county, or even near the enemy? four square leagues will afford thirty different positions according to one of the greatest captains; and constant changes promote health, improve discipline, employ the troops and leave the enemy uncertain. It rarely happens that any camp is surprized except one that is stationary. It is not the least part of Winchester's misconduct that he remained long enough on one spot, so remote from the army, and so convenient to the enemy, as to enable the latter to know his exact position, and take measures for surprizing him.

In every instance where a camp is situated, either upon a dead plain, with a bottom capable of retaining moisture, the situation of every person in the camp will be rendered uncomfortable in the first place, and sickly in the end. The nature of the diseases will, of course, depend in part also on the season of the year. The same thing will happen if the camp be in the immediate vicinity of woods, marshes or pools of stagnant water. In such cases the troops are obnoxious to fluxes, fevers, agues, and the whole train of complaints which arise from marsh effluvia or a damp situation.

Even when it is not optional with an officer to retire from such a country, there may still be useful precautions; by encamping to windward of a marsh, &c. you often avoid the ague that would

infallibly seize you to leeward of it. But wherever there is a choice of ground, it becomes a matter of policy and humanity, to select the most healthy.

X.

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK,

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1813.

The Proprietors of this Paper having purchased a complete

PRINTING OFFICE,

have established the same in Church Street, No. 6, back of St. Paul's Church yard. Will thankfully execute all orders for Printing, with which they may be favored, either in French, English or Spanish, as neatly and expeditiously as any others of the profession in this city and on as cheap terms.

Orders for this Paper, addressed as above, will meet with prompt attention.

TO CORRESPONDENT.

"RUPERT" shall appear next week.

Letters from Washington, dated March 1, mention that the President of the U. States had nominated and sent for concurrence to the Senate the following appointments for the rank of Major General in the armies of the U. States.

James Wilkinson, of Kentucky
Wade Hampton, of South Carolina
Wm. R. Davie, of South Carolina
Wm. H. Harrison, of Kentucky
Aaron Ogden, of New-Jersey—and
Morgan Lewis, of New-York.

Summary.

Anxious to gratify our readers, we stated what was circulated in other prints respecting the reported capture of a British frigate; our doubts as to the fact induced us to give it only the shape of a rumour, and we are sorry to add that it deserved no better character.

The panic which was occasioned at Sacket's harbour, by the movements of the enemy, seems to have subsided, and to have been followed by confidence in the measures taken by American officers for protecting that place.

Of Gen. Harrison, we can only say that he is proceeding in a manner well calculated to leave little to chance, and, by wise measures, powerfully supported, to render victory certain.

A British brig of 14 guns has been captured by the privateer Holkar of 18 guns; and the brig Anne from Liverpool, with a cargo valued at \$100,000, by the privateer Growler. The latter prize has arrived at Marblehead, the former was spoken on Tuesday last in lon. 70, lat. 40.

A London paper of January 20, says, Col. Barclay, the late respected British consul-general at New-York, has taken his passage on board his majesty's ship Valiant, for Bermuda, whence he is to proceed to New York, in order to hold, at that place, the office of general superintendant for the exchange of prisoners.

The ship *President Adams*, Capt. Adamson, is lost on the coast of China. She was wrecked Sept. 29, having been driven ashore in a gale, and immediately bilged. The vessel and cargo were valued at 300,000 dollars. It is said, the next day, 200 boats, with about 1500 Chinese fishermen, came along side, and plundered the ship of the specie, and every moveable article, during which time they began killing each other for the booty. The crew of the ship was in imminent danger of being massacred, but they ultimately succeeded in getting one of the boats of the natives to carry them to Mocoa for 800 dollars, which they effected in 3 days.

FOREIGN.

The foreign papers are principally occupied by details of operations by the Russians against the French armies, which seem to be nearly destroyed. The "Great Emperor" has returned to Paris to raise another great army, while the successful Russians pursue their victories by invading the kingdom of Prussia: Königsberg and Memel had been entered by them; Dantzic and Berlin were threatened with a like fate.—A new levy of 300,000 men was ordered in Russia, & it was reported that Great Britain was to defray half the expence.

Humanity must shudder at the wanton effusion of blood in conflicts interesting but to a few of those who fight the bloody battles. The alternate repulses of the mighty despots of Europe are interesting to Americans, only as wisdom may be learned from their folly, and the value of a popular form of government more justly appreciated by a comparison with the hideousness of monarchy.

It is reported that the Emperor of Russia has offered to the United States and Great Britain, his mediation, with a view to promote peace between them, and that a communication to this effect has just been made to our government by Mr. Daschkoff.

Extracts.

FROM THE AURORA.

A SKETCH. OF THE PROGRESS OF MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

No. IV.

A little reflection will discover to any discerning man, that as all the movements of military bodies, consist of what is termed *evolutions*, or movements of bodies of men, in such compact and systematic order, as may enable them to be always prepared to *attack* or to *resist* an attack, or to arrive in a time fixed, in good order, at some point where they may be in vigor & confidence prepared for military action, that the great perfection of *tactics*, or the skill of moving armies, is to be found in the superiority of the *method* and *celerity* of performing *evolutions*.

Knowing this important truth, we cannot, without cheating ourselves into a fatal illusion, for which we have already

paid dearly at Tippaconoe, Detroit, *Greenstown*, *Buffalo*, & the river *Raisin*, suffer ourselves for a moment to believe that there is *any rule or method* to be found in *Steuben's* book, by which we can acquire a knowledge of more than the three evolutions of the column, and the passage of the defile; but the method of changing front, which is given in *Steuben's* tract, however it may satisfy those who have studied for the *solemn mockery of a review*, cannot be adopted by any one who is acquainted with the promptitude of modern evolutions. We could place this truth in a very strong light, if it did not require diagrams, and explanations of them, which we cannot command from the hands of the engraver with the requisite facility.

Evolutions are to be acquired by practice, not by rote; the *nineteen manœuvres* may *astonish the natives*, but a man who understands the elementary discipline, will not suffer himself to servilely pursue any particular class of manœuvres or evolutions in a dull rotation! the man, expert in the alphabet of his trade, *knows his ground* better;—and however he may sport with evolution in the practice of instructing others or himself, he will never attempt any evolution or manœvre, with double or treble ranks without first fixing it as a rule in his mind to perform as if it were intended to be in front of an enemy; let him always suppose an enemy on some given front; and accustom himself to evolutions with that idea always present—he will not be cheated into a belief then, that he knows every thing, when he can order men to go thro' nineteen manœuvres. He may otherwise as well attempt to perform on nineteen fiddlesticks. It will be always time enough for any soldier, young or old, to talk of tactics and manœuvres, when he has learned, how to *walk*, and *face*, and *wheel*.

We have heard of a general officer who forbade an exercise of field movements to less than a battalion, so that without any preparation in company drill, his battalions, were by mere instinct to enter upon field movements—this was one of your nineteen fiddlesticks generals.

We have heard two men, who were ignorant of the *alphabet of their trade*, talk about evolutions; and, with equal wisdom, take two opposite extremes; one in support of evolutions, the other in opposition to all evolutions; the difference between these two men in the end, however, would be, that he who was in favor of evolutions, might, by chance, at last discover their use; while he who opposed them would, by continue in the same mind, remain an incorrigible blocked all his life.

It is unquestionably true also, that men may perform certain *evolutions* from a book, without knowing the why or the wherefore; but it is very certain that the practice of evolutions would, nevertheless, produce in the men that habit which is so important, the habit of regular motion, and in the officer the *habit of command*. It is *concealed* from us, how many blunders were committed & how many errors rectified by the great Frederick in his Potsdam parades: we can only judge by analogy, how many errors he discovered in his own first judgments; and how much he profited by seeing and practising evolutions or parade; what he would do, how he could do it best, and in the shortest time in *real action*. It was on the drill parade at Potsdam that he learned to commit so few faults in the field, and to retrieve at Luthen the misfortunes of Lissa; it was on that parade he put in practice the elementary principles of the *oblique order of battle*; by which, with only 36,000 men he beat prince Charles of Lorraine, at the head 90,000 Austrians, & here we may put the question to those *profound soldiers who recommend* to us *Steuben* as a military system—will they tell us in what page of *Steuben* our officers are to find the instruction or the principles of instruction by which they can even understand what is meant? We beg their pardon, we do not say they do not know the thing, we only say they learned it some where else. Away then with this pestiferous bigotry, this inhuman ignorance, which sacrifices troops to ignorant officers—and sends brave men to be butchered under the command of block-heads.

The young officer who means to become a soldier, and do honor to himself, his profession and his country—where all sound heads begin in every science, he will begin with the *elements*, the alphabet of his trade; he will, if he has only 20 men under his command, exercise them in those elements, diligently & frequently; and he will with his sections in single rank, pursue every diversity of evolution, which his mind and study can present to him; try and try it again—he will by this practice become so familiar with it, and very soon with his success in the habit of command, that his delight will grow every day, and encrease with his knowledge; he will move his men in sections & in file in every direction, and in different directions at the same time; and he will discover by practice when they are confused how to restore them to their primitive order without disturbing or breaking the arrangement of any of the distinct parts—this is spelling himself into knowledge—and by this means, he

will be able to read understandingly—for these little movements contain the principles of exactly what he will have to do on a larger scale. The method of moving four sections of four single files each, will lay the foundation of those principles; and give him fair conceptions of the mode by which a brigade of four regiments may be manoeuvred.

Let not the young officer be disconcerted by the sneers of *laziness* and *ignorance*; let them persuade him that a few evolutions are sufficient; he may tell those children of indolence and error, that all evolutions in war must depend upon the nature of the *ground*, that as the ground every where is infinitely diversified in form and surface, so must evolutions be, to be adapted to every new form of ground; and that, as all evolutions consist of only the three simple elements of *marching*, *facing*, & *wheeling*—that the whole of the perfection of evolutions consists in adopting that arrangement of the troops, for the purpose, acquired, which is best adapted to the ground and the purpose; that as *dexterity* and *quickness* are to be acquired only by practice, and as no evolution can be determined with certainty, without a sight of the ground upon which it is to be performed, the more dexterity the troops acquire in the drill, and the more various their practice, the better able will the officer be to choose his ground and his evolution, and to command the troops to execute whatever is required. We could refer to drills carried on for a year, with a succession of recruits and young officers; in which no two days in succession gave the same exercise; the consequence was, that as the young officer, as well as the men, never knew one day what was to be done the next; nor when one evolution was performed what was to follow it; they were prepared in that way, and their minds habituated to the very kind of circumstances which must always occur in real service; both men and officers were *attentive to the words of command*—and to the *manner* in which it was to be executed, because they neither knew what was to follow nor could they perform, what was commanded, unless they had, by practice, obtained a perfect understanding both of the *terms* and their *application*; and as all the evolutions consisted of no more than *marching*, *facing* and *wheeling*, they executed the command at the very instant it was commanded, and were equally competent to execute evolutions which they had never before seen, and those to which they had been accustomed, if the command was given only in intelligible military lan-

guage. At these drills, care was taken that when there was music it should not be calculated to put them to sleep.

(To be Continued.)

From the SARATOGA PATRIOT.

Some affects to feel great sensibility for the "*inoffensive inhabitants of Canada*," against whom it is alleged our government have waged an offensive war. Taking it for granted that the war against Great Britain is just, which many persons tacitly admit:—the question then arise, is it lawful in a just war against great Britain, to attack Canada?

The British empire is composed of various dependencies, altogether forming one great whole; and the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada are as much a component part of the dominion of George the third, as England, Ireland or Scotland. Nations regard each other as moral agents; the great mass of the people or body politic, with all its parts, being controlled and actuated by the government, just as the natural body with all its members is actuated by the will.

It has always been the practice of nations at war, to attack the provinces, dependencies and members of each other; and it is as just in a moral point of view, in the injured nation, as for a man in a personal contest, to maim the hand or foot of an adversary, who was attempting to murder or enslave him.

True, it would better comport with our ideas of strict justice, to level our artillery and direct our attack, against the corrupt and profligate cabinet of St. James; and thereby wholly spare the subjects of the British king, from the calamities of war. Such an attack however, would be utterly impracticable. Great Britain and all her dependencies, except Canada, are beyond our reach; and it is only in consequence of the juxtaposition of Canada to the United States, that it necessarily becomes the theatre of war.

The patriots of the revolution thought the reduction of Canada an object well worth their greatest efforts. They regarded, with horror, the influence which Great Britain, by her acts and intrigues, exercised over the ruthless savages of the wilderness; bords of whom, she could at any time, let loose upon the defenceless frontiers. It was to curtail the power of the British tyrant, to save their dwellings from conflagration, and their wives and children from the tomahawk and scalping-knife;—it was, in fine, to guard against the very evils which we experienced, previous to the

declaration of war, and which we have since continually suffered, that an expedition was planned for subjugating the Canadas, in which the brave Montgometry fell before the walls of Quebec.—Were it possible for our armies to attack the Island of Great Britain, the sympathies of her adherents would find equal or greater causes of excitement.

What, they would say, will you distress eight millions of innocent, unoffending inhabitants, nine tenths of whom have never been within three thousand miles of your country, and one fourth of whom are actually paupers? Will you carry the sword where poverty and famine conjointly reign, and superadd to the common wretchedness of the people, the calamities of war? Such would be the ebullitions of British agents—should we carry the war into the heart of the British empire.

Had we a sufficient naval force to conquer "the thousand ships" of England, earnest would be the expostulations of these men against such a "barbarous" enterprise. They would ask what the poor tars of old England had done to excite the indignation of our government. They would tell you that thousands of those tars had been seized and dragged on ship board by merciless press gangs, and were reluctantly compelled to do duty, by the cruel stripes of their upstart tyrants. They would tell you also, that the great body of British sailors were obliged on pain of tortures and death to obey their orders—that they were the mere machines of their haughty superiors, and as destitute of free agency as the ships themselves. They would remind you likewise, that thousands of American seamen are by some means or other in the British navy, and ask emphatically whether you would point your cannon against the bosoms of your countrymen.

Thus would the *friends of peace* and submission shield Great Britain and her dependencies from every point of attack.

But let me not here neglect to do justice to many anglo-writers, who, feeling constrained to admit that we have been grossly injured and insulted by Great Britain on the ocean, and knowing our comparative naval inferiority, maintain, with all the art and force of sophistry, that as she has injured us only in our maritime rights, we ought never to have commenced hostilities by land, but have attacked her exclusively at sea. That, in this way only, could the honor and dignity of the nation be supported.

Such logic, calls to mind the punctilious, scrupulosity of the Spaniard, who, having received a kick from his adversary,

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"Just in the seat, where honor's is lodg'd",
—gravely walked off, very wisely resolving that it would be unjust and cruel to attack a man in front who had injured him only in the rear, and that whenever the posteriors of his adversary should present themselves, he would with all due solemnity retort the injury according to the rules of "*lex talionis*."

SARATOGA.

FATAL DUEL.

At a period when so many of the youth of our country have embraced a military life and, having exchanged the parental authority to become subject to the rigid discipline of camps, yet, may be said, in a great degree, to have become "their own masters," we hope the following instance of the fatal effect of duelling, amongst Officers, evinced on a late occasion, will be acceptable to most of our readers.

If it should tend, even in one instance, to weaken the tendency to this fatal vice proceeding from a false sense of honour which pervades the Officers of every army, we shall feel most heartfelt satisfaction in having been, perhaps, the instruments of preventing the premature exit of a fellow man, and the consequent misery that must ever flow from the reflection of having deprived a human being, perhaps an injured friend, of that which it is not in the power of man to bestow—life—and sent him unanointed, with all his imperfections on his head, to that "bourne whence no traveller shall ever return."

EDITOR.

The Coroner's Jury, summoned to sit on the body of the late Lieut. JOHN BAGNELL, of the Royal Marines, who was shot in a duel with Lieut. STEWART, on Southsea Common, having this week, after repeated adjournments, caused by the absence of one of the witnesses, come to a decision; we have inserted the principal depositions:

Jane Haines, a married woman, and who lives in a small cottage beyond Southsea Castle, deposed, that about half past seven in the morning of the 8th of October, as she and her husband were at breakfast, a gentleman, in plain clothes and apparently much agitated, came to the door, exclaimed "for God's sake go out, for there is a Gentleman dangerously wounded in fighting a duel."—They went out, and the Gentleman, pointing to the spot they were to go to, proceeded on his way in great haste for Portsmouth. They found the wounded Gentleman against a bank, very languid and almost fainting. He earnestly intreated to be taken to the cottage; to which he was helped by this deponent's husband and a gentleman, who was standing by. There was no person on the ground when this deponent went up, but Mr. Bagnell, the wounded gentleman, and the gentleman who who assisted to take him to the cottage. That this

gentleman observed, that there was a surgeon sent for and a post-chaise. On the surgeon's arrival, he examined the wound and extracted the ball—it was a leaden bullet, suitable for a large pistol. And this deponent further saith, that when the surgeon arrived, he inquired who it was that wanted him, and appeared perfectly ignorant of the transaction; and when he went into the room where Mr. Bagnell lay, the latter told him, that he had received great injury in a duel, & begged the surgeon's assistance; and the conversation that took place between them clearly explained that the surgeon was not on the ground when the duel took place, or in any way privy to the transaction. That whilst Mr. Bagnell was proceeding to the cottage, he said to the gentleman who was assisting him, "John, he never came back to say he was once sorry for it;" and the gentleman answered "No." And whilst Mr. Bagnell was lying on the bed, he said to the same gentleman, "I am sorry for you, Jack;" & they both shed tears, and appeared extremely friendly towards each other. Mr. Bagnell also said, "John, I discharged my pistol, didn't I?" to which the gentleman replied, "Yes, you did." That whilst the deponent's husband and the gentleman last mentioned was assisting Mr. Bagnell along the field where he was first found, another gentleman in plain-clothes, came running from the Castle, and looked over the bank; and the one, who was so supporting Mr. Bagnell, said to him, "Oh, Harry, send a post-chaise," and he immediately ran off towards Portsmouth.

Mr. James Rickman, surgeon of the Portsmouth division of Royal Marines, deposed that on the 8th of Oct. he attended on Lieut. John Bagnell, of the Royal Marines, at his lodgings in Hambrookrow, and found that he had received a wound upon the right axilla, posteriorly near the inferior edge of the scapula, and apparently passing transversely over or through the muscles to the opposite superior and outer edge of the opposite or left scapula; and that Mr. Madden, a surgeon in the vicinity, had also attended and performed the operation of extracting the ball. That this deponent rendered, as he believes, every surgical and medical aid to the said John Bagnell, but who languished under his wound till about six o'clock in the evening of the 10th October, and then expired; and that the above wound was the cause of his death.

Lieut. Alexander Day, R. M. deposed, that he knew Lieut. Bagnell, that he called on him, on the Friday after the duel; Lieut. Bagnell was in bed, very ill

and in great pain—he said to this deponent "I am afraid it is all over with me;" but did not disclose to this deponent any thing about the duel or of the person who had wounded him. That in the morning of Friday, having received a message that Lieut. Wm. Stewart wished to see this deponent at his lodgings in Stone-Street, Portsea, he received this deponent with words to the following effect—"Day, I am the most miserable wretch." The said Lieut. Stewart then entered into the particulars of a dispute which he said had recently taken place between him and the deceased; he stated that as he was about to leave Mr. Bagnell at his lodgings, he (Stewart) observed, that he should make a call on some one, and Mr. Bagnell immediately answered "you will not be received." That Mr. Stewart then said "how do you know I shall not be received?" upon which Mr. Bagnell replied, that he would not allow himself to be impertinently catechised—that Mr. Stewart upon this, told Mr. Bagnell that he (Stewart) would not allow himself to be bullied; that Bagnell rejoined, "what, call me a bully in my own house! walk out of it!" that Mr. Stewart thereupon went towards the door and Mr. Bagnell followed him, with his hand touching or nearly touching his great coat; that this induced Mr. Stewart to say—"don't touch me, Bagnell, for that never can be made up;" and when he got into the street, Stewart told Bagnell he should hear from him; that Bagnell, moving his hand to and fro, said, "go along, go along." That Stewart, in the course of his conversation with this deponent, said, "he was very glad to hear Bagnell's wound was not mortal, and that he was likely to recover." Stewart also said, that Bagnell's first ball had passed very near him.—That some remark then fell from Stewart that was disrespectful towards the deceased, upon which this deponent broke off the conversation and went away.

Lieut. P. K. Jessop, deposed, that on Friday after the duel, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, on going to his lodgings, he found them occupied by Lieut. Wm. Stewart; that when he saw this deponent coming towards the door, he (Stewart) came out, and immediately asked this deponent if he had heard of the unfortunate circumstance that had taken place, and appeared very much agitated at the time, and added, "Jessop, am I not a most wretched fellow? I never shall enjoy a moment's peace of mind as long as I live." This deponent observed, he had heard of the duel between him (Stewart) and Ba-

gnell, but did not wish to know any particulars. That, however, some short time afterwards, Stewart informed this deponent, that the cause of the quarrel between him and Bagnell, was owing to Bagnell's having turned him out of his room as he would a dog, by moving his hand to and fro, and saying, go along, go along, or words to that effect; that Stewart further stated, that Bagnell must blame himself for what had happened, and being obstinate, and refusing to make any apology; that Stewart, however, shewed great distress of mind, and often expressed his sorrow at what had taken place; he said that it should be a lesson to him as long as he lived; and that in future, whatever affront he might receive, or if he was even struck, he would not be induced to fight a duel again, but would rather verify the text in scripture—that if he received a blow on one cheek he would offer the other to be struck also, or words to that effect.—That this deponent was in the house with Stewart part of two days, and he constantly evinced his great distress of mind and sorrow, for the state of his poor friend Bagnell, as he called him.

Joseph Isaac, at whose house Lieutenant Bagnell lodged, deposed that on the morning of the duel Mr. O'Hanlon remained up stairs nearly an hour, and then went away. Mr. O'Hanlon, called every day to see Mr. Bagnell—sat up with him two nights—and was with him at the time of his death, which took place about a quarter past six on Saturday evening—that Mr. Rickman, the Surgeon, regularly and repeatedly attended Mr. Bagnell, every day until his death. That this deponent frequently saw and conversed with the deceased during his illness, but he never mentioned his having fought a duel. That the deceased was very intimately acquainted with Lieut. William Stewart, of the Royal Marines, who, was in the habit of visiting him and breakfasting with him almost daily until Wednesday last, on which day he did not come to the deceased's lodgings, nor did he visit him during his illness, nor has the deponent ever seen him since.

Sarah Aubell deposed, that she was employed to nurse Lieut. Bagnell, and continued with him night and day until his death; that this deponent had frequent opportunities of seeing and conversing with him. He said he had been wounded in a duel with Mr. Stewart, and that he would have made it up on the ground, but Mr. Stewart was not agreeable.

George Deddy, servant to Lieut. John O'Hanlon, deposed, that by his master's desire he went to the lodgings of the de-

ceased John Bagnell, about half-past four on Thursday morning; he found Mr. Bagnell very ill and in pain; this deponent remained with him all that day, and till about one the next morning, also from about eight the next morning, and set up with him the following night. This deponent had frequent conversations with him, but he never disclosed to this deponent with whom he had fought the duel, nor by whom he was wounded nor who the seconds were, if any, on the occasion. And this deponent further saith, that his said master went from home on Sunday morning last, and has not since returned; he said he should be back in three or four days.

After summing up by the Coroner, R. CALLAWAY, Esq. the Jury returned the following verdict:—Verdict—*Wilful Murder* against William Stewart, for having shot John Bagnell in a duel; and also *Wilful Murder* against John O'Hanlon, for aiding and abetting.

From a London Paper.

AMERICA.—Again has the sacred cause of humanity sustained a heavy blow, and the philanthropist and christian have occasion to mourn the blood stained trophies of successful war. An extraordinary gazette has been published by ministers, announcing a 2d defeat of the American forces in their unsuccessful attempt to invade Canada, in which, besides killed & wounded, they are stated to have lost one general officer, and 900 men taken prisoners, one six pounder and one stand of colors.—This victory, however, over our American brethren, is not without its alloy. We have lost a gallant officer (Major General Brock,) who fell while in the very act of cheering his men, and bravely leading them on to the attack. His Aid-de-Camp (Lieut. Col. Macdonald) was also killed at the commencement of the action, while defending a post. Our loss is stated as comparatively trifling in this unfortunate affair. Thus has another triumph, as it is called, been added to our arms;—yes! a triumph; such as is felt by conscious guilt when successful over unsuspecting innocence; or by the desperate gamester, who, to extricate himself from his overwhelming difficulties, aims the suicidal blow at his own wretched existence?—Let us not vainly encourage ourselves with the hope, that these partial and illusory successes will bend the proud spirits of our offended brethren or awe them into fear. This at least, whatever be its other defects, is among the superior advantages of republicanism, that it puts forth its best energies in the hour of increasing

peril, and draws abundant resources even from despair. It was not until after repeated and unsuccessful efforts that the Romans at length proved victorious over the Carthaginians, and even afterwards became their undisputed masters both by land and sea. The American republic is yet but in its infancy; a long interval of uninterrupted peace and prosperity has blunted the vigor of her arms, and almost obliterated the remembrance of her martial deeds. But adversity will now rouse her to active exertion; and a sense of injury, aided by personal feeling, will quicken and inflame her zeal. Having once taken her stand for the rights of commercial intercourse and the freedom of the seas, and published a manifesto of her wrongs in the face of the world, pride, as well as principle, will not permit her to relinquish her claims, and retire from the contest covered with everlasting humiliation and disgrace.—The ministerial journalists, ever ready to exult in the work of bloody havoc and desolation, have reproached us that we did not sufficiently notice the former victory obtained over our American brethren, and express, in becoming terms our joy at their defeat. We plead guilty to the heinous charge: we feel no pleasure in recording this useless sacrifice of lives, in a quarrel which is neither honorable, politic, nor just:—we admire and esteem the bravery and humanity so conspicuously displayed, in both instances, by our officers and men, who have nobly discharged their duty, and are innocent of the crimes of their employers; but, as lovers of freedom, & as friends to humanity and justice, we wish success to no unrighteous cause, and, if we have tears to shed, we reserve them to mourn over an injured and a fallen enemy's defeat.

New-Orleans, Jan. 26.

A schooner from Carthage, bearing the Republican flag, arrived in this port on Sunday last. The Archbishop of that city came in her—it appears he incurred the displeasure of the people, for not participating in their ideas of independence.

Carthage is one of the strongest places, and finest ports, in the new world—17 of the neighboring provinces have declared themselves independent, which may enable the republicans of Venezuela once more to shake off the yoke.

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